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Inspection at Laredo, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, May 2, as follows:

Number of passenger trains inspected, 14; persons on trains from Mexico inspected, 714; immigrants from Mexico inspected, 30; persons from Mexico vaccinated, 12; Pullman coaches disinfected, 17; persons inspected and passed on international foot and carriage bridge, 4,445.

Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—yearly and monthly.

CONNECTICUT—*Stamford*.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 18,000. Total number of deaths not reported. No deaths from contagious diseases reported.

GEORGIA—*Columbus*.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 19,303—white, 10,276; colored, 9,027. Total number of deaths, 21; white 7, colored 14, including measles 1, and 4 from phthisis pulmonalis.

IOWA—*Dubuque*.—Two weeks ended April 23, 1904. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 24, including 3 from tuberculosis.

MARYLAND—*Cumberland*.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 54, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 2, measles 3, and 5 from tuberculosis.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended April 30, 1904, from 72 observers, indicate that phthisis pulmonalis, measles, scarlet fever, dysentery, inflammation of brain, whooping cough, and meningitis were more prevalent, and bronchitis, inflammation of kidney, diarrhea, erysipelas, inflammation of bowels, remittent fever, cholera morbus, diphtheria, and cholera infantum were less prevalent than in the preceding week.

Meningitis was reported present at 3, whooping cough at 9, diphtheria at 29, enteric fever at 40, pneumonia at 50, scarlet fever at 69, measles at 100, smallpox at 106, and phthisis pulmonalis at 250 places.

MONTANA—*Helena*.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 13,000. Total number of deaths not reported. No deaths from contagious diseases.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—*Franklin*.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 6,000. Total number of deaths, 10. No deaths from contagious diseases reported.

NEW YORK.—Reports to the State board of health, Albany, for the month of March, 1904, from 156 cities, towns, and villages, having an aggregate population of 7,738,000, show a total of 14,303 deaths, including diphtheria 252, enteric fever 163, measles 168, scarlet fever

152, whooping cough 50, smallpox 1, and 1,432 from phthisis pulmonalis.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN says:

It was noted in the last Bulletin that the number of deaths exceeded that of any on our records for February, with a daily average of 440, and an increase above the average for the five years preceding of nearly 2,000. The March mortality, however, far exceeds that of February, and the month is conspicuous in having had in the 14,300 deaths which occurred the largest number of deaths ever recorded in one month in this State. In twenty years covered by our records there have been fourteen months only in which the reported number of deaths has exceeded 12,000, and four times only has the monthly mortality reached 13,000; these were in January, 1890 and 1892; April, 1891, and July, 1892. July is uniformly the month in which the greatest number of deaths occur, and ordinarily there are between 11,000 and 12,000 deaths in July every year. But it is noteworthy that the periods of phenomenal mortality, when the number of deaths rises far above the ordinary for the month, occur in the winter or spring months. These extraordinary increases are mainly due to deaths from acute pulmonary diseases, which cause a far larger element of variability in mortality than do the diarrheal diseases of midsummer. In the years 1890 to 1893, in which the great monthly mortalities occurred in the winter and spring months, the deaths from acute respiratory diseases for the year arose from less than 14,000 of preceding years to between 18,000 and 20,000 deaths for the year, mortalities which have hardly ever since been reached. No other causes or groups of causes of death have shown anything like this variation.

March, in our records, is the second highest month of the year in the number of deaths, coming next to July. Indeed, it shows an average by periods of five years but very little less, both months having an average mortality of about 11,500. In the past five years it even exceeds the July average. The predominant cause for this increase is the deaths from pneumonia and other acute respiratory diseases, the number of which is commonly greatest in March; and it often equals and frequently exceeds the diarrheal mortality of July. These are the two great causes of death having seasonal variability. In this present month there were 3,000 deaths from acute pulmonary diseases, besides 1,400 from consumption; but other local diseases are likewise much increased; deaths from old age are increased, and from conditions of general enfeeblement not classified. In the three months since January 1, almost 40,000 deaths have occurred, or 5,000 above the average, all this period being one of excessive mortality. There are, customarily, more deaths in the first quarter of the year; of 1,000 deaths occurring during the year, 265 will occur in the first three months, 245 in the second, 260 in the third, and 230 in the fourth. (The mortality of December is variable, but will not usually be far from that of September.)

The epidemic mortality is relatively low, 8 per cent of the total. The typhoid-fever deaths are increased a little from its unusual prevalence in a number of places. The Watertown outbreak has abated. There is a considerable increase in the deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis, which comes largely from the city of New York. Scarlet fever has increased during the last four months, and its prevalence is noted at Dunkirk, Niagara Falls, Phillipstown, White Plains, Saugerties, and towns in Schoharie and Sullivan counties. Measles causes more deaths at this time of the year, and it shows a moderate though widespread prevalence. Diphtheria decreases, as is usual in March.

Smallpox has decreased in prevalence; during April 40 cases have been reported from the following places: Buffalo, Lockport, Medina, Hinsdale, Auburn, Ithaca, Scriba, Tompkins, Delaware County, and Stony Point, more than half of the number occurring in the last mentioned, where there has been a recent outbreak. Chautau-

qua County, where smallpox has been long prevalent, appears to be clear, and in Chautauqua County but a single town is affected as reported. Undiscovered cases in Tompkins, Delaware County, caused a spread to adjoining towns. The discovery of occasional cases, the origin of which has not been accounted for, indicates the existence of undetected cases. There have been but 5 deaths during the year, 3 of which occurred in Brooklyn.

What constitutes vaccination is a question sometimes asked, and it is important, since not unfrequently cases of smallpox are reported where vaccination has been said to have been performed even within a few months. A person can not be said to have been vaccinated in whom the disease vaccinia has not been induced; in the intent of the law as well as for scientific reasons one can not be considered to be vaccinated on whom simply the procedure of vaccination has been performed without subsequent result. The purpose of the procedure is to secure protection from smallpox, and that is only effected by its resulting in the production of vaccinia, with all its normal phenomena of soreness at the site of introduction of the virus sequent in its evolution upon an interval of two or three days after the operation, and the orderly development of subsequent usual symptoms, local and constitutional, of this slight disease. Everyone who has not been at some previous time successfully vaccinated or who has not had smallpox should have this vaccinia as a result of the operation of vaccination, for the term implies not merely the procedure of inoculation with the virus, but the expected subsequent results. It is well proven that persons on whom vaccination fails are not immune to smallpox nor safe from taking it if exposed. A certificate of protection against smallpox ought only to be given after the vaccination has worked; that is, has been found to cause vaccinia.

Saratoga Springs.—Month of April, 1904. Census population, 12,119. Total number of deaths, 20, including 2 from tuberculosis.

NORTH CAROLINA—Charlotte.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 28, including 6 from tuberculosis.

PENNSYLVANIA—Columbia.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 12,832. Total number of deaths, 22, including 3 from enteric fever.

Pottsville.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 17,210. Total number of deaths, 33. No deaths from contagious diseases.

TEXAS—San Antonio.—Month of April, 1904. Estimated population, 65,000. Total number of deaths, 153, including enteric fever, 2; measles, 2, and 36 from tuberculosis, of which 24 were of nonresidents.

VIRGINIA—Pocahontas.—Month of April, 1904. Census population, 2,789. Number of deaths not reported. No deaths from contagious diseases reported.